

Application No. 10/084,491
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated November 5, 2003
March 5, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted inside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted outside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn):

Claim 5 (Previously amended): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
a pair of wings; wherein,

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at least one of the two wings is coupled to the protective sheath so as to be movable with the protective sheath.

Claim 6 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the other wing of the two wings is coupled to the fixed sheath; and

the hollow needle is exposed when the two wings are aligned symmetrically, and the hollow needle is covered by the protective sheath when the two wings are slid in directions to distance the wings from one another.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:

a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular portion, the tubular portion partially covering the needle; and
a protective sheath slidably ~~fitted to~~ movable and guided by the tubular portion of the fixed sheath, between a first position where the protective sheath is housed inside of the fixed sheath and a second position where a tip of the hollow needle is

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entirely covered by the protective sheath; wherein,

the protective sheath and the tubular portion of the fixed sheath have a locking means for restricting sliding movement of the protective sheath relative to the tubular portion, ~~and the protective sheath is movable from the tubular portion of the fixed sheath to a position where the tip of the hollow needle is entirely covered.~~

Claim 8 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, wherein the locking means comprises a locking slot and a locking projection.

Claim 9 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

each of the fixed sheath and the protective sheath has a wing, and when the wings are aligned symmetrically, the hollow needle is exposed, and when the sheaths are slid in directions to distance the wings from one another and locked, the protective sheath covers the hollow needle entirely.

Claims 10-11 (Withdrawn):

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Claim 12 (New): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an end of the slit and stops further movement of the wing, and wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

Claim 13 (New): A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:
a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular portion, the tubular portion covering the needle partly;
a protective sheath slidably fitted to and guided by the tubular portion of the fixed sheath, the protective sheath being movable relative to the tubular portion and covering the hollow needle entirely;

the fixed sheath and the protective sheath comprising locking means having a slot and a latch projection for engaging with the slot so that the locking means prevents the protective sheath from separating from the fixed sheath; and

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a pair of wings, at least one of the wings being coupled to the protective sheath for pulling out the protective sheath.

Claim 14 (New): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an end of the slit and stops further movement of the wing, and wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

Claim 15 (New): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the protective sheath comprises at least two slide sheaths.